

EXHIBIT A

**FINDINGS FOR SANTA MARGARITA CEMETERY DISTRICT
GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT LRP2008-00004**

Environmental Determination

- A. The project is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies to projects that have the potential for not causing a significant effect on the environment. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this project may have a significant effect on the environment because the proposed land use category change would (with conditional use permit approval) recognize the longstanding public use of the site as a cemetery and would allow for an expansion into a 0.68-acre area that has historically been used for cattle grazing and which does not contain any sensitive habitat. Physical development associated with the cemetery expansion would be limited to grading for burial plots and extending interior roads. Therefore, the project is not subject to CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines sec. 15061 (b) (3), General Rule Exemption).

Land Use Element Amendment

- B. The proposed amendment is consistent with the Land Use Element and other adopted elements of the general plan because all future uses are limited to those allowed under Table 2-2 for the Public Facilities land use category. In particular, this general plan amendment would recognize the longstanding public use of the site as a cemetery and would allow for a 0.68-acre cemetery expansion, subject to conditional use permit approval.
- C. The proposed amendment is consistent with the guidelines for amendments to land use categories because:
- i. The proposal would allow (with conditional use permit approval) for the continued use and expansion of an existing cemetery, an allowed use in the Public Facilities land use category, and is consistent with existing planning policies.
 - ii. Continuation and expansion of the cemetery will not conflict with adjacent grazing land, adversely affect the appearance of the countryside, or result significant environmental impacts.
 - iii. The proposal is consistent with Agriculture Element Policy 24 (Conservation of Agricultural Land) because there are no feasible alternative locations for a new cemetery in the Santa Margarita Urban Reserve Line.
 - iv. There are no existing sites designated Public Facilities in Santa Margarita or the project vicinity that would be available or suitable for a new cemetery.
 - v. The existing cemetery has a remaining capacity of about 20 burials (approximately a one year capacity) and the proposal is necessary to extend its capacity for another 50 years to continue to meet community burial needs.
- D. The proposed amendment will protect the public health, safety and welfare of the area residents by allowing for the continued use and expansion of the existing Santa Margarita Cemetery, which is compatible with the existing development of the surrounding area and the County's General Plan.
- E. The proposed amendment is consistent with the purpose and character statements in the Land Use Element of the General Plan for the Public Facilities land use category as the proposed land use category change would recognize the longstanding public use of the site as a cemetery and would allow for a 0.68-acre expansion to continue to meet burial needs in the community Santa Margarita and surrounding areas.